Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /079 W

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R 111414Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8478

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

CONFIDENTIAL ANKARA 6017

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: FURTHER TURKISH REACTION TO EVENTS IN CYPRUS

REF: ANKARA 5997 (DTG 110825Z AUG 77)

1. OVER THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS, SEVERAL TURKISH NEWSPAPERS HAVE PRINTED PICTURES OF THE FUNERAL CEREMONY FOR ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS CALLING ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT MAKARIOS' COFFIN WAS WRAPPED IN A GREEK FLAG RATHER THAN THE FLAG OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS. THESE PICTURES, CARRIED IN COLOR IN SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS, VIVIDLY REINFORCED THE POPULAR TURKISH VIEW THAT MAKARIOS' ULTIMATE INTENTION WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS WAS ENOSIS.

2. MILLIYET'S ABDI IPEKCI, WHO IS ONE OF TURKEY'S MOST WIDELY-READ POLITICAL COMMENTATORS AND WHO NORMALLY TAKES A MODERATE LINE ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE, ASSERTED IN HIS FRONT-PAGE COLUMN AUGUST 11 THAT MAKARIOS' SUCCESSOR COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GREEK COMMUNITY. IPEKCI'S BASIC ARGUMENT IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT MADE AUGUST 10 BY MFA DIRGEN CYPRUS-GREECE AFFAIRS TULUMEN (REFTEL). IPEKCI GOES A STEP FURTHER, HOWEVER, AND CALLS ON THE GOT TO PROPOSE THE FORMATION OF A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD BEGIN WORK ON A NEW CONSTITUTION.

- 3. MILLIYET AND TURKISH RADIO NEWS MORNING AUGUST 11 CARRIED COMMENTS OF TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH CRITICIZING US AND UK FOR THEIR ALLEGED PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE LEGITIMACY OF MAKARIOS' SUCCESSOR AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS. THE MILLIYET STORY WHICH IS DATELINED NICOSIA ALSO QUOTES DENKTASH'S CRITICAL COMMENTS ABOUT STATEMENTS MADE BY SECRETARY CLIFFORD AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE. DENKTASH REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED HIS COMMENTS BY SAYING THAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS ARE DETERMINED NOT "TO GIVE THE MAJOR POWERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT IN CYPRUS WHAT THEY DID IN CRETE."
- 4. TURKISH PRESS AUGUST 10 CARRIED BRIEF REPORT OF CLIFFORD'S EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT SOME PROGRESS ON THE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM COULD OCCUR IN 1977. MOST PAPERS AUGUST 11 ALSO CARRY PORTIONS OF CLIFFORD'S AUGUST 9 PRESS CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH QUOTES APPEAR TO BE SELECTED FOR THEIR PROVOCATIVE POTENTIAL, THE STORIES CARRYING THEM ARE NEITHER MAJOR NOR PROMINENT. CONFIDENTIAL

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5. COMMENT: TURKISH REACTION TO EVENTS IN CYPRUS REMAINS SUBORDINATED TO DOMESTIC CONCERNS. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT IPEKCI'S COMMENTARY COULD BE BEGINNING OF PUBLIC CAMPAIGN WHICH MIGHT MAKE IT PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT FOR THE GOT TO BACK AWAY FROM THE HARD-LINE POSITION IT HAS TAKEN ON THE MAKARIOS SUCCESSION QUESTION. SPIERS

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TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, (MAKARIOS, ARCHBISHOP III)

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